

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

10/506970

Yukihisa WADA et al.

Application No. New U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/01032

Filed: September 8, 2004

Docket No.: 121041

For: DIE CLEANING METHOD

**TRANSLATION OF THE AMENDMENTS
UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19 (35 USC 371(c)(3))**

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a translation of the amendments of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). The attached translated material replaces the claims of the International Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 8, 2004

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CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A die cleaning method for removing a forming-material from a die used in forming the forming-material constituted of clay containing a binder,
5 characterized by comprising the steps of: removing a part or all of the binder contained in the forming-material from the die; and removing the forming-material from the die.

10 2. The die cleaning method according to claim 1, wherein the step of removing a part or all of the binder is performed by heating the die.

15 3. The die cleaning method according to claim 2, wherein a heating temperature is in a range of 200 to 500°C.

20 4. The die cleaning method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the step of removing the forming-material is performed by spraying a fluid to the die at a pressure of 40 kg/cm² or less.

5. The die cleaning method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the die includes a member constituted of cemented carbide.

25 6. The die cleaning method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the die includes a member having

slits.